

# Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

## Draft Minutes

April 9, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

### 1. Call to Order

- **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**- Mark Morrison, Sharon Dohrmann, Jennie Christopherson, Gary Shaff, Maya Baerg, Sidney Brown
- **PRESENT: OPEN POSITIONS: 2**
- **ABSENT:** n/a
- **CITY COUNCIL:** Bob Kaplan, Jeff Dahle
- **STAFF:** Chad Woodward

### 2. Consent Agenda.

- Minutes- Approved.
  - *Motion to approve by Brown, seconded by Dohrmann. Approved by Dormann, Baerg, Morrison, Brown, and Shaff. Passed 5-0 (Christopherson and arrived after the vote).*

### 3. Updates/Announcements

- Staff Update – Woodward:
  - Packaged Terminal Heat Pump (PHTP) outreach consisting of emails to 105 property managers and 90 HVAC contractors, 6 outreach calls, and 8 site visits completed. One large property interested in about 100 units; another property is reviewing their 24 units. Verified that some conservation budget line-items (city conservation, solar, contracted services, advertising) can be moved around through department head approval. Funds tied to Council-directed programs cannot be shifted and Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) reimbursement funds are restricted to BPA programs. Home Energy Score (HES) has around 4 weeks left with a deadline of May 7. The HES now supports multi-family stacked units. The total HES budget allows for 150 audits and we expect 100 are either done or scheduled at this point. The Carbon Pollution Impact Program didn't have many related new permits filed this past month. EV charger installation work is beginning next Monday on 2nd Street lot (4 chargers).
- Council Update – Dahle:
  - Shared about authorizing signing a new 10-year franchise agreement with Avista. Discussion ensued and questions about how the franchise agreement relates to and supports CEPAC goals.
- Council Update – Kaplan:

- Approved wayfinding signage for pedestrians & cyclists and staff will return with detailed design refinements. Council endorsed the Rogue Valley Transportation District Levy of 13¢ per \$1,000 property value levy. If passed, it will restore Saturday service and increase Route 10 frequency. Madrone Ridge Property Acquisition update - shared that Western Rivers Conservancy seeks to transfer 2,000-acre property to City and 75% of purchase funding is secured. The deadline is September 2027 and Council has requested detailed cost projections and a management plan to evaluate long-term feasibility. The City Strategic Plan is happening now, with public engagement beginning (events, online surveys, focus groups) with a target completion date in September.
- CEPAC Update – Morrison:
  - May 2 Wildfire Education Event at ScienceWorks. Next month’s guest speaker is Charisse Sydoriak and will be about wildfire and defensible space. Morrison shared about a recent community “code-a-thon” that produced wildfire-resilient landscaping tools using city plant data. CEPAC currently has 6 members; continued recruitment encouraged.

#### 4. **New Business – Electrify City Operations**

- There was discussion about acquiring the building-inventory data (HVAC age/type, replacement timelines) to inform next steps. The importance of avoiding missed electrification opportunities during rushed projects was emphasized. The current administrative policy requires justification when not electrifying. CPAC members express concern about ensuring the city follows its administrative policy to electrify buildings and equipment when opportunities arise, debating whether exceptions should require Council review rather than just staff discretion. There was staff recognition that 2030 net-zero operations goal is likely unachievable. Next steps include staff obtaining the inventory spreadsheet in advance of the next work session. There was discussion about requesting logs for possible admin policy exceptions that may have been granted in the past. Staff will explore how to move forward on this. A CEPAC work session was scheduled for May 13, 2:00–3:30 PM.
- The TSP (transportation system plan) does not have fixed start date is likely 2–3 months out. CEPAC tentatively preparing to begin involvement in June.

#### 5. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:00.**